

# New York The Jewish Week

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Holocaust survivor Susan Keller, accompanied by three of her grandchildren, lights a memorial candle at the Gathering of Remembrance at Temple Emanu-El on the Upper East Side. JOHN HALPERN

## The Lessons Of 'Never Forget,' In Increasingly Perilous Times

Rise of nationalism, lack of Holocaust knowledge offer troubling backdrop to Yom HaShoah ceremony.

**Gary Rosenblatt**  
Editor and Publisher

The speakers included an Israeli ambassador and a U.S. senator, elderly Holocaust survivors and a third-generation granddaughter of a survivor. Each was eloquent; the message was the same.

Remember. Never forget.

**Between  
The Lines**

Perhaps more powerful than the stirring words and the haunting songs that filled the magnificent sanctuary of Temple Emanu-El at New York's annual Gathering of Remembrance on Sunday afternoon was the sight of 36 elderly female survivors, accompanied by young family members, walking slowly across the bima to light a candle

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## Sharp Debate Over CUNY Graduation Speaker

Choice of Linda Sarsour touches off anger, reveals divisions.

**Stewart Ain**  
Staff Writer

Linda Sarsour, a Palestinian-American activist who helped organize the Women's March last January and was praised by former President Barack Obama as "a champion of change," will be the commencement speaker at a branch of the City University of New York — a move that has fueled a sharp debate in the Jewish community that touches on free speech and reveals

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Palestinian-American activist Linda Sarsour: Free speech fight.

## 'Dreyfus Affair' In The Age Of Le Pen

BAM production gains fresh relevance amid surprising election results.

**Ted Merwin**  
Special To The Jewish Week

It was one of the most famous frame-ups in history.

In 1894, a young Jewish military officer from Alsace, Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, was wrongly accused of treason against the French government. Convicted and shipped off to Devil's Island, Dreyfus

**French expats  
on the election.** page 10



was finally exonerated years later through the intervention of a famous non-Jewish writer, Émile Zola; he forced the French political, legal and military system to confront its own inbred anti-Semitism, even as Jews throughout Europe, including Theodor Herzl, concluded that the only solution to the "Jewish problem" was to

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*Straight line from Capt. Alfred Dreyfus to Vichy France to Marine Le Pen?*

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Jewish Culture Has a New Name

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# From Beach To Mainland, A New Culture Boom

**Hilary Danailova**  
Travel Writer

Poetry readings are not common at hotels, let alone hotels in Miami Beach, where the prevailing culture historically emphasized tan lines more than lines of verse.



The restored Colony Theatre in South Beach, above. Left, the sculpture garden at the Pérez Art Museum. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



But on a recent Sunday morning at The Betsy, a boutique hotel on South Beach, a crowd gathered for bagels, coffee and two hours of Yiddish poetry. The event featured several professors and a video of Hyam Plutzik, the New York Jewish poet whose son, Jonathan, bought the historic property and renovated it for a grand reopening in 2009.

As an homage to his father's literary world, the younger Plutzik installed a writer's room for visiting scribes, along with a cultural program — jazz concerts, art exhibitions, Jewish films, book talks — that would give many JCCs a run for their money.

The Betsy may be unique, but it's also emblematic of the new currents animating Miami, a metropolis that is more cosmopolitan than ever.

Miami, like all great cities, is in a constant state of flux. Along with skyrocketing prices, that flux has lately brought a tide of goodies for the Jewish visitor: world-class Israeli chefs at the South Beach Wine & Food Festival, a plethora of kosher eateries, more places to see Jewish art and theater, kosher options at the airports.

There's even a public bike rental program, Citi Bike, with apps geared specifically to out-of-town travelers. The program has evolved since its origin in 2010 as Deco Bike, complementing buses and taxis as an easy, inexpensive solution for the carless in Miami Beach. (Caveat: I'm not a biker, and haven't personally used it, but I see a lot of happy riders whizzing by.)

Another major upgrade: the spectacular Pérez Art Museum, which overlooks Biscayne Bay, across the

causeway from Miami Beach. With views that rival anything you'd see inside, the Herzog & De Meuron-designed building opened in 2013 as the new incarnation of the former Miami Art Museum, dedicated to art from the 20th and 21st centuries — the era of this very modern city.

On view now is the first major show in years to feature the Iraqi-Australian Jewish artist Toba Khedoori, whose muted palette belies a compelling intensity; in her drawings, a narrow hallway or a row of apartment-block windows captivates with suggestion.

Like Yiddish poetry at The Betsy, the Pérez's Khedoori exhibition highlights the way new and better venues are fomenting Miami's evolution as a Jewish cultural destination. Greater Miami already had one of the largest concentrations of Jews anywhere, a storied Jewish history and a wealth of Jewish institutions.

But over the past decade, Miami has become a visibly more affluent city, and a more diverse one as well, Jewishly and otherwise. One felicitous result has been a crop of theaters, hotels, museums and other places where Jewish culture flourishes.

Among the latest: the University of Miami's Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies, which will likely see more historical drama as the home of the National Jewish Theater Foundation's international Holocaust theater program.

Last year saw the launch of Miami New Drama, a fledgling company cofounded by two playwright-directors: Venezuelan-Jewish Michel Hausmann and Moisés Kaufman, who is well known to New York audiences. Hausmann's "The Golem of Havana," a 2013 play about a Cuban-Jewish family on the

eve of revolution, was the company's debut production at the Colony Theatre, an Art Deco gem on Lincoln Road.

It's a testament to the enduring vitality of Miami Beach that even as H&Ms and Italian bistros open along Lincoln Road, the pedestrian heart of South Beach, you can still take in plenty of culture. There are plays and the Cuban Classical Ballet at the Colony, whose 1935 interior has been gorgeously restored, and paintings and sculptures at several inviting galleries, like the ArtCenter South Florida.

Back in the Colony's heyday, Jews were restricted from settling north of South Beach. My grandparents and many of their New York neighbors spent Jewish holidays at the original Ocean Drive resorts in the 1930s and '40s; even as the

geographical restrictions were lifted after the war, South Beach remained the heart of Jewish Miami Beach.

So it's particularly gratifying to observe the flowering of Jewish life up and down the isle. By my unscientific tally, there are more kosher eateries around Surfside and North Beach — from steakhouses and bakeries to tacos and tapas — than in the entire stretch between Baltimore and South Florida.

Indeed, there's more of everything in Miami these days. More younger families, more Jewish (and non-Jewish) newcomers from across Latin America, more luxury towers, more parks and boardwalks and terraces for gazing at the huge Florida sky. And there's more than ever to do under the Miami sun. ■

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The **Norman E. Alexander Award** for Excellence in Jewish Student Writing is seeking essays on notable women. Choose a living or deceased Jewish-American woman and write about her legacy in any field such as law, medicine, sports, politics, entertainment and more. Why are her accomplishments meaningful to you?

**Deadline: May 29, 2017**

The annual contest is sponsored by **Fresh Ink for Teens (FIT)**, the **Jewish-American Hall of Fame** and **The Jewish Week Media Group**.

For contest rules and more information go to [freshinkforteens.com](http://freshinkforteens.com)



The Alexander Award writing contest is an official program of Jewish American Heritage Month